DANIEL E. KOSHLAND, Jr.

Mr. Chancellor, I present to you Daniel Edward Koshland, Jr., man of science. Not only as a renowned researcher, but as an extraordinary teacher, administrator, arbitrator and exuberant contributor to scientific academies around the world, Daniel Koshland has worked to shape his chosen profession.

He obtained his undergraduate degree in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, where he is now a Professor of Biochemistry. Dr. Koshland then earned his doctorate from the University of Chicago and was a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University for two years. From these beginnings, his contributions to science have been many and exceptional.

"Good scientists solve the most important problems they can think of", wrote Nobel Laureate Peter Medawar. By this measurement, Daniel Koshland is indeed a great scientist. His studies on bacterial chemotaxis produced exciting and significant discoveries about enzymes, how they function and how they control biological systems. His work has shed important new light on the genetic and chemical basis of memory and behaviour.

Noted for his adeptness at choosing important problems to investigate and for his success at solving them, Dr. Koshland’s accomplishments have been widely recognized by his peers. The American Chemical Society and the National Academy of Sciences have awarded him honours, as have the Japanese Biochemical Society and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

 Quite aside from his teaching and research, Daniel Koshland has laboured in other ways for the advancement of science and has earned a world reputation as a good citizen of the scientific community. He has served as President of the American Society of Biological Chemists and on editorial boards of scientific journals too numerous to mention. At present, he is chief Editor of the prestigious magazine, Science. At the same time, Dr. Koshland has built his Department at Berkeley into a world center for excellence in biochemical research.

It has been said that art makes the abstract world concrete, whereas science makes the concrete world abstract. The life and work of Daniel Koshland testify that these two creative forces can be unified within a single individual. Mr. Chancellor, for outstanding contributions to the advancement of science, I present on behalf of the Senate of this University Daniel Edward Koshland, Jr., for the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.